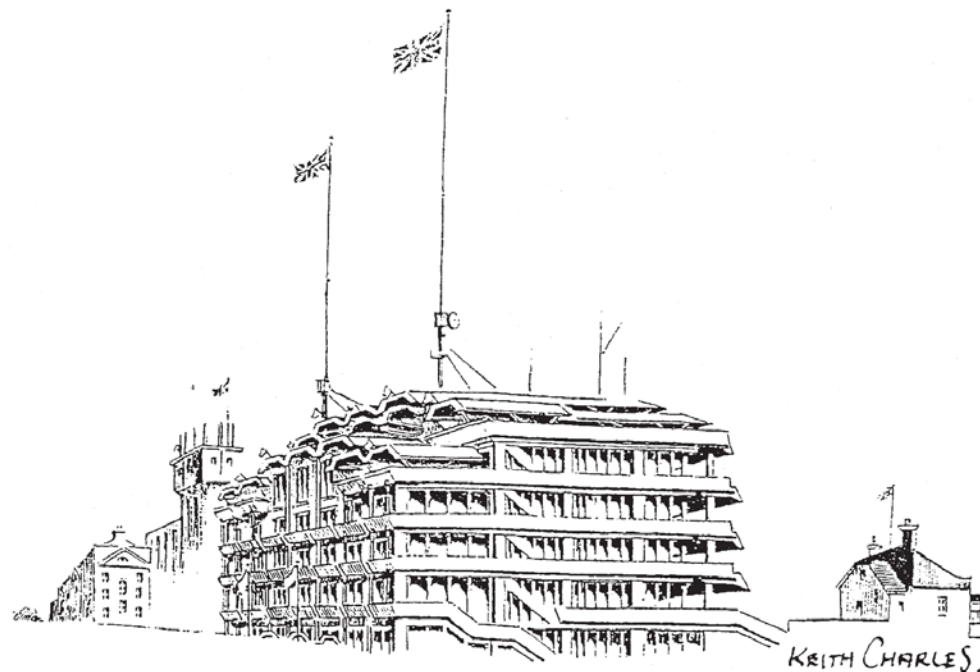


# SUMMER 2009 NEWSLETTER

## **WOODCOTE (EPSOM) RESIDENTS' SOCIETY**

*Representing the whole of Woodcote Ward*



### **Election Success**

**Residents' Association Candidate Chris Frost**

**Re-elected as County Councillor**

**See page 4 for details**

Visit our website on:  
[www.epsom-ewell.co.uk/wood.php](http://www.epsom-ewell.co.uk/wood.php)



## Committee for 2009/10

Officers	Address	Tel	Email
<b>Chairman</b>			
Linda Boddy	3 The Hayes, KT18 6HB	279699	lindaboddy@rocketmail.com
<b>Hon Secretary</b>			
Kathy Belcher	4 Whitehorse Drive, KT18 7LY	728534	jbka@onetel.com
<b>Hon Treasurer</b>			
Barry Fox	10 Oak Hill, Epsom, KT18 7BT	720692	barry.fox@talktalk.net

### Committee Members

Saskia Jordan	5 Barons Hurst, KT18 7DU	726666	saskia@jordanmail.co.uk
Brian Saxby	59 Sunnybank, KT18 7DY	725915	BJLSaxby@yahoo.co.uk
Tracey Whittington	10 Dudley Grove, KT18 7NB	725522	kaw1@talk21.com
Rupert Durrant	64 Grosvenor Road, Langley Vale	07993815533	rupert@thedurrants.com

### President - Margaret de Lyon

Margaret de Lyon 15 Dorking Road, KT18 7JR

### Hon Auditor

C J Bevis FCA 19 Wilmerhatch Lane, KT18 7EQ

## Our Woodcote Ward RA Borough Councillors



Teresa Cass

RA Borough Councillor

1 Headley Parade, Langley Vale Rd, KT18 6AW  
270495 tcass@epsom-ewell.gov.uk



Mike Richardson

RA Borough Councillor

23 Hambledon Hill, KT18 7BZ  
745784 mrichardson@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

## Our RA Surrey County Councillor



Chris Frost

RA Surrey County Councillor

Oak View, 8 Warren Hill, KT18 7BX 720430 c.frost@surreycc.gov.uk

## Dear Residents

I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Chairman of Woodcote Residents' Society since our retiring Chairman, Rob Blackwell resigned just before the AGM this year. I have been a resident of Langley Vale for 20 years and an Epsom resident for 49 years. Always interested in local and community issues, I was firstly Chair of the PTA and then a School Governor at Epsom Downs Infant School when it was located in Grosvenor Road. One of the reasons I joined the Residents' Society was because it was always at the forefront of local issues and fighting visibly on our behalf, local people looking after our local interests. I look forward to playing my own part in carrying on these traditions.

Election time has been a real test to our stamina and shoe leather! Following a very busy few weeks of canvassing and leaflet distribution I am delighted to inform you that our Residents' Association Candidate Chris Frost was successfully re-elected to serve on the County Council for the Epsom and Ewell South East Division, which of course includes Woodcote Ward. The margin of victory was just 166 votes and demonstrates just how every vote really did count. Thank you to everyone who supported our campaign, who distributed leaflets, trod the streets canvassing and most importantly, voted for Chris Frost and in so doing, helped to retain local control in the hands of local people.

Canvassing over several nights leading up to the election we were pleased to introduce or re-acquaint ourselves to so many of our neighbours in the Woodcote Ward. We welcomed your comments, and were not surprised that topping the list of concerns raised was the state of our local roads. Chris has been working hard on our behalf to report the potholes and push for immediate repairs. Please read Chris' report 'Council News' for an update on his constant battle to get these issues put right.

We are now a few weeks into our new regime of recycling bin collection. If like me you felt a bit daunted by the quantity of new bins, then I soon realised that if my 77 year old mother had managed to adapt so easily a few weeks earlier, then surely I could manage it too! After a week of pausing and thinking every time I approached the rubbish bin, I am already now feeling more "at home" with the changes, and quite enjoy the fact that I am left with so little to throw away in my green bin and hence doing my bit for the environment. It is a pleasant surprise that I have no problem in completely filling the black bin every two weeks with cardboard and plastic bottles. Imagine the environmental benefits, as this used to go into landfill. How are you getting on with the new system? We welcome any comments, good or bad.

Finally, The Society would like to take this opportunity to thank Rob Blackwell, our retiring Chairman, for his unstinting work on behalf of the Society and residents of Woodcote Ward over the past three and a half years. Amongst his many contributions, residents of Langley Vale are particularly grateful to Rob for his pro-active approach to the anti-social behaviour that plagued Langley Vale. Rob instigated a public meeting in Langley Vale involving local residents, the Council and Police, which had the desired effect of directing police attention and high profile police presence to the area. This was enough to put an end to the troubles seen over the previous year. Thank you Rob and we wish you good luck in your retirement.

**Linda Boddy**

**Chairman, Woodcote Residents' Society**

# Success at the County Council Elections

Candidate	Representing	Number of Votes	% Vote
Chris Frost (Elected)	Residents Association	1582	36.50%
Tina Mountain	Conservative	1416	32.70%
Diana Coman	Liberal Democrat	905	20.90%
Janet Amelia Taylor	UK Independence Party	279	6.40%
Catherine Grinyer	Labour	152	3.50%

## Chris Frost our Residents' Association Candidate was successfully re-elected as County Councillor for Epsom and Ewell South East Division.

### Thank you to everyone:

To our residents who despite being bombarded with campaign leaflets from all parties, understand the importance of keeping party politics out of local issues.

To our dedicated team of road reps who gave up their time, often at short notice, to make sure every household received our election leaflets.

and

To our Committee of Woodcote Residents who work hard throughout the year to keep your RA Councillors informed about problems that affect you.

## County News

Chris Frost, RA County Councillor

### Election Result

Many thanks to everyone who voted for me. I was delighted to be re-elected as County Councillor representing Epsom and Ewell South East Division, with an increased majority of 166.

My sincere thanks go to all our road representatives, my election team representing all three Residents' Associations in my County Division, and the committee members for all their hard work.

Residents' Association candidates did very well; we now have ten members at County Hall (up from seven). One of them is technically an Independent, as he pays his own election expenses, but he is supported by the Residents' Association committees in his area and has formally joined the Residents' Association Group. There are fifty-six Conservative Councillors, down three, thirteen Liberals Democrats, up one, and one Labour, down one. At the time of writing we have not allocated committee places within the Group.

### Those Potholes

There are still far too many potholes in our roads. I keep reporting ones I see and those that are notified to me by residents, but it seems that the contractors can't keep up. If you see a pothole that needs to be repaired you can report it using the following link:

[http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/sccwebsite/sccwspages.nsf/LookupWebPagesByTITLE\\_RTF/Reporting+defects+and+potholes+on+the+road?opendocument](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/sccwebsite/sccwspages.nsf/LookupWebPagesByTITLE_RTF/Reporting+defects+and+potholes+on+the+road?opendocument)

You may prefer to go straight to the County Council's website at <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk>. On the home page there is a button to click on labelled 'Report it'. Alternatively, you can phone 03456-009009.

Money for repairing potholes, and for resurfacing roads, is held centrally and is not under the control of any group of local County Councillors. Decisions on which to repair are made following a scientific assessment of the condition of the road or pothole, including the strength of the underlying road structure.

All returning County Councillors have been asked for the main issues raised on the doorsteps during the campaign, and I put the condition of the roads and pavements at the top of my list. I hope it will make the Conservative administration allocate more money as a matter of urgency. They had £20m with Icelandic banks, and now expect that the majority of that will be repaid in due course. I believe that they should use much of this to help improve the condition of our roads, and my colleagues and I will be pressing them to do this.

### Bus Service in Langley Vale on Derby Day

I heard that some residents in Langley Vale were inconvenienced because the bus service was withdrawn on Derby Day. This decision was nothing to do with either the County Council or the Borough Council, but was made by the bus company. I contacted them, and was told that the congestion, and temporary one-way roads, made it impossible for the buses to run to any reliable timetable. Apparently the buses have not run to Langley Vale on Derby Day for some years. The bus company told me that notices were put on the bus stops and in the buses prior to the event.

***Kiln Arrives in Warren Woods – Langley Vale***

At the end of May the first significant step in the restoration of the Warren Woodland took place with the first firing of the new charcoal kiln.

The restoration began as a result of recent work to repair and preserve the Grade Two Listed Warren Wall, built in 1720 to enclose an

area used to breed hares for sport (newsletter Autumn 2008), when it became apparent that the associated woodland is possibly the oldest woodland on the downs. It contains some of the oldest trees (old oak coppice stools) and is also unusual in that it retains a high density of hazel stools ideal for restoration as commercial grade coppice.

Coppicing is an ancient practice of deliberately cutting native hardwoods at ground level to encourage re-growth. The re-growth produces multiple trunks of uniform size which grow much faster than newly planted young trees. The practice has been carried out in Britain for thousands of years and is a long established technique for the sustainable production of products including charcoal (formally used as a fuel for the iron, glass and lime burning industries).

The Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators, of which Cllr Teresa Cass and I are members, recognised the benefits of the proposed restoration and agreed that the Lower Mole Countryside Management Project (Newsletter Autumn 2008) should manage the restoration of the woodland. The respective landowners, the Council and Jockey Club Racecourses Limited, have also given their consent. The benefits of carrying out this form of restoration are:-

- In terms of nature conservation the number of plants, butterflies and birds typically increase after reintroduction of coppicing.
- Public access is improved as coppicing regenerates trees which are overhanging or encroaching paths thus it opens up sightlines for users of paths in the woodlands



*Nick Owen and volunteers from the Lower Mole Countryside Management Project take a break after installing the new charcoal kiln.*

and decreases perceptions of intimidation felt by some visitors. The increased diversity of species adds interest and is more visible to visitors. Also features such as significant trees become more noticeable.

**Charcoal**

The new kiln in The Warren Woods is now up and running. If you live in Langley Vale, you may even have noticed the occasional pleasant smell of wood smoke. There are many environmental benefits of producing charcoal locally:

1. Approximately 90% of charcoal used in Britain is imported much of which can come from tropical rainforests
2. 40,000 tones of Charcoal are shipped to Britain each year which contributes to the loss of habitats and greenhouse emissions
3. Production of charcoal briquettes requires the use of energy as lump wood charcoal is ground, mixed, pressed and dried
4. Charcoal briquettes are not 100% charcoal. They can contain fillers, binders and accelerants such as cement, clay, starch, tar and pitch from coal production, waxes, nitrates, and lime.

Charcoal produced from the new kiln in The Warren branded '**Epsom Living Woodlands**' and Epsom Common branded '**Ecovols**' is available from several outlets locally. The lump wood charcoal produced from the kiln is 100% high quality wood with nothing added. Using locally produced charcoal not only helps the environment but also directly supports local conservation work. In addition to the charcoal, firewood is also available and income from sales helps to support conservation work carried out on these local sites. For details contact the Lower Mole Countryside Management Project tel. **01372 743783**.

**Message to potential advertisers – reach local customers in an efficient & cost effective manner**

If you would like to advertise in our newsletter, please contact Tracey Whittington on Epsom 725522. This newsletter usually goes out three times a year to over 1,500 households in the ward.

**Message to residents – please do mention this newsletter when using the goods or services of the companies that support our Society**

Please note that, whilst the support of our advertisers is much appreciated, the Society cannot endorse any of the goods or services advertised herein.

## ***Borough News continued***

***Mike Richardson  
RA Borough Councillor***

### ***Handyman Service***

A new handyman service for residents who need odd jobs doing around the home has just been launched by the council.

The main aim of the service is for small, minor jobs to be carried out which will complement existing schemes already in operation by Age Concern and Surrey Social Care. The Council in partnership with Surrey Supporting People and Surrey's Primary Care Trust will provide a free or subsidised service for the vulnerable and disabled members of the community and to qualify residents need to be a homeowner and either;



- Disabled and on a means tested benefit
- Aged 65 or over and on a means tested benefit
- Aged 85 and over

In these cases the Council may pay up to 50% of the works required (up to a maximum of £150) or, where work is needed for a health, safety or security measure, the full amount if the work costs less than £75.

However, anyone can make use of the traders listed on the Council's approved list, all of whom have been through enhanced Criminal Records Bureau and insurance checks and have been attracted to join the scheme. Work carried out by the traders includes minor plumbing, electrical jobs, garden clearance, decorating, fixing grab rails and key safe boxes.

To find out more about the scheme, please call 01372 732000.

### ***Youth Leisure Day***

The council is this year staging its fourth annual Youth Leisure Day in Rosebery Park on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July. The ethos behind the day is to provide young people with a free day of entertainment whilst letting them know about some of the many fantastic opportunities that they can get involved in across the Borough. The day showcases local young talent and allows the young people that attend the event to learn more about sports and local clubs (see details over).

#### **WATCH OUT FOR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER**

If you would like your community or club event mentioned in our forthcoming newsletter please email to [lindaboddy@rocketmail.com](mailto:lindaboddy@rocketmail.com) or telephone 01372 279699

***Calling all Young People....***

***Youth Leisure Day  
YLD Xtreme***

***Rosebery Park***

***Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2009, 12 - 5pm***

**A FREE event for young people aged 11 - 17 years.**

Live Bands, a Rodeo Bull, Team Extreme (BMX stunt display), Sumo Suits, Space Ball and loads more, as well as information on staying safe, local youth organisations and lots of opportunities to try new sports and activities.

To find out more please visit [www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk](http://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk), email [leisuredevelopments@epsom-ewell.gov.uk](mailto:leisuredevelopments@epsom-ewell.gov.uk), or call 01372 732 000.

**No need to book, just turn up to enjoy a free and exciting day.**

### **Can you help?**

**Your local resident's society needs more committee members**

The Woodcote Resident's Society exists to safeguard and promote the Woodcote Ward's resident's local interests. We are here to help with any local concerns that residents might have, to help build a local community, and to make sure that resident's views are heard by the Council.

It takes only a few hours each month. We meet every two months to hear what the Councillors have to report about local issues, to raise any queries from the residents, and to arrange social events. There is very little time commitment and all help is welcomed. If you are interested in becoming a committee member please contact any of the members on the front of the newsletter. Why not come along to a meeting to see if it is something that you could help with?

## ***Borough News***

***Teresa Cass***  
***RA Borough Councillor***

### ***Holiday Inn Express – Langley Vale Road***

If you have driven past the Holiday Inn Express in the last week you will have noticed the building of a new entrance. This new entrance will consist of a flint wall, to match the one on the left of the entrance, with integral illuminated signs.

There have been three separate applications for signs over the last 15 months which Cllr Teresa Cass requested should go before a full committee for discussion. Cllr Cass spoke at all three meetings as she was concerned that the proposed signs were too big and not in keeping with the surrounding area. The original application for the entrance was for two very large illuminated signs on top of the wall which were not considered to be in keeping with the surrounding landscape. Cllr Cass suggested that a sign within a recess would be more appropriate. Thanks to Teresa's efforts, all three applications were rejected and the wall will now be built with the signs recessed into the wall.

We are confident that the conditions placed on this new entrance, balances the need for a business to advertise its location and yet remain sympathetic to the surrounding landscape.

### ***Neighbour's Trees***

Cllr Teresa Cass was contacted recently by a resident who was concerned about their neighbour's trees in high winds. As no address details were given, here is the response provided by Epsom's Tree Officer:

The Council can only take action with dangerous trees on neighbouring land in certain circumstances as a last resort:-

- A) The trees have to be actually dangerous, i.e. dead or decayed, not just a fear of their size or them swaying in wind.
- B) The neighbour has to demonstrate that they have tried to resolve the matter with the tree owner first, i.e. copy of a letter not responded to.

If the above criteria are met the Council may be able to investigate further and could serve a dangerous tree notice.

If the above do not apply I suggest the neighbour discusses their concerns with the tree owner.

### ***Telephone Problems***

Cllr Teresa Cass is still experiencing problems with her answer phone. If you have left a message which has not been responded to, Teresa sends her sincere apologies. She will now be using an alternative work number as a contact.

## ***The Durdans***

Following a meeting that Cllr Teresa Cass and Cllr Mike Richardson attended in April, Lord Halifax's Estate Management has agreed to market the property again for a limited time. It is hoped that with all the publicity the site has attracted since it was last marketed a suitable tenant can be found to use the buildings for equestrian purposes.

If you know anyone who would be interested in saving this historic site and has the necessary funds please contact Teresa for further information.

### **Do you live in the Ebbisham Area ?**

It is very important to the Society that all parts of the ward are represented.

If you live in the Ebbisham area and are interested in local issues that affect your community, we would love to hear from you. Please telephone or email Linda Boddy or Kathy Belcher. (Contact details at the front of this Newsletter). Your input and contribution would be very welcome.

## **Stroll Amongst the Bluebells**

A group of 35 Woodcote Residents turned out on a sunny Sunday in April for our Bluebell Walk to Headley. Starting our walk at the top of Beaconsfield Road in Langley Vale, we were led through the Warren by Nick Owen from the Lower Mole



Countryside Management Project who gave a very interesting insight into their current project of reinstating the traditional management of The Warren Woodland by coppicing. We learnt how coppicing, where tree stems are repeatedly cut down to near ground level, has the beneficial effect of providing a rich variety of habitats for plants and animals. As we continued our walk, Nick pointed out the ancient woodland indicator plants and a couple of very old trees which confirms The Warren as an ancient wood.

A bi-product of coppicing is the provision of wood for making charcoal. Before the availability of coal, coppicing and charcoal production was important in allowing the smelting of metals. These days we are more used to using charcoal on our garden barbecues! Nick showed us the location for the new Charcoal Kiln which was to be installed in early summer. Since our walk the kiln has been installed and you may have noticed it in its new position at the edge of the woods beyond 'The Rec' in Langley Vale.

Leaving Nick at The Warren, we then made our way to Headley. The path eventually led us under the M25 and then onto the Bluebells at Headley. The bluebells were a real picture and well worth the 3 mile trek. We all enjoyed the walk and finished our journey at The Cock Inn at Headley. After welcome refreshment, we were transported back to Langley Vale by mini-bus. Thank you to the 7<sup>th</sup> Epsom Scout Group for the loan of their mini-bus and full marks to the family who managed to push their pushchair all the way!

### **Residents Invited to Taster Day at the New Duchess' Stand**

The new Duchess' Stand opened its doors this Spring to local residents for a taster day prior to its official opening to the public. Local residents were invited to view the new facilities, admire the view of the course and try out the food outlets.



*Linda Boddy  
(Chairman  
Woodcote  
Residents'  
Society) and  
Janet Brooker  
(Long term  
Langley Vale  
Resident) in the  
banqueting  
suite.*

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### **Epsom Common Association's Living Woodlands Day**

**Sunday 20th July - 10am - 4.30pm**

Working demonstrations; charcoal-making at the Kiln on Epsom Common  
(Stew Pond Car Park)

Charcoal available for sale.

Tea & home-made cakes for sale - monies raised helps fund the upkeep of the  
common and assists the work of the volunteers.

If you can provide cakes please telephone: Coner 01372-743783

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